

PELVIC INFLAMMATORY DISEASE

Arizona Department of Corrections
Health Service Bureau

Inmate Wellness Program
HEP 1034- 01/06

WHAT IS PELVIC INFLAMMATORY DISEASE?

Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID) may occur when a woman has a sexually transmitted disease which goes untreated. The pelvic area of a woman's body holds all reproductive (sexual) organs. PID results when the infection occurs in parts of the pelvic area, specifically the uterus, fallopian tubes or ovaries.

PID is a **very serious** condition requiring medical attention and compliance with treatment instructions. Possible results of having PID include chronic pelvic pain, risk of infertility (inability or difficulty in becoming pregnant), and serious illness. If left untreated, PID can be life-threatening.

WHO IS AT RISK OF DEVELOPING PID?

Any woman can develop PID, however, certain women are at higher risk. Possible risk factors include:

- ✓ Sexual activity, especially in women 15 – 24 years of age.
- ✓ Having had multiple sexual partners.
- ✓ Using an intrauterine device (IUD) for contraception.
- ✓ Untreated gonorrhea or Chlamydia infection (sexually transmitted diseases).
- ✓ Previous history of PID.

SYMPTOMS AND CONSEQUENCES

The most common symptoms of PID is pelvic pain. This pain may be accompanied by

abnormal vaginal bleeding, discharge, fever, back pain or painful sexual intercourse.

TREATMENT

Pelvic inflammatory disease is treated with antibiotics. It is **VERY IMPORTANT** that instructions for taking the medication be followed exactly as prescribed, in order for the infection to completely go away. Make sure to take **ALL** medications until gone, **even if the symptoms start to go away**. Additional examinations will also be required to be sure the infection is gone.

PREVENTION

Prevention includes taking precautions against developing a sexual transmitted infection after release from the Arizona Department of Corrections, as well as acting quickly to limit the transmission and severity of the disease once it has developed. Here are some ways women can reduce their risk:

- Abstain from sex or limit the number of sexual partners.
- Use barrier methods of contraception (use of condoms).
- Seek medical evaluation for any symptoms of sexually transmitted infections, and by requesting routine sexually transmitted infection and screening tests when having a pap smear.
- If undergoing a pregnancy termination, take medications as ordered. Make sure recommendations regarding follow-up examinations are followed.